(b) The steps taken include launching of servant verification drive and neighbourhood watch scheme in different areas of Delhi, strengtheing of patrolling system, close surveillanee over the activities of criminals released from jail and educating the public to instal home safety devices like door chains, magic eye, etc.

(c) 22,966 cases of theft including burglary were reported in Delhi during 1996 and 9,220 persons were arrested in connection with these thefts.

RDX Recovered in South Delhi

504. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 10 kg RDX was recovered from a village in South Delhi called 'Khirkee' and some people arrested;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to check the import of illegal arms, ammunition, RDXs, drugs and the lacuna in our system that helps all such imports/ sneaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One of the persons arrested in this connection is reported to have revealed in the course of investigation that the explosive was provided by a benchman of "Daud Ibrahim" for the purpose of causing explosions in Delhi on the occasion of the Republic Day, 1997.

(c) The measures taken by the Delhi Police to curb such activities in Delhi include close cordination with the Central and State Intelligence agencies; checking suspected guest houses/hide-outs; strict watch on foreigner tourist camps; larger deployment of spotters/watchers; verification of new tenants; checking of suspects vehicles; display of photographs of known terrorists at public places and soliciting greater public cooperation.

Alarming Increase in Naxalite Military and Insurgency Activities in the Country

505. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an alarming growth of Naxalities/Milistry/Insurgency in various parts of the country;

(b) if so,the details thereof by standard norms of assessment for the last 3 years, year-wise and area-wise with reasons therefore;

(c) the details of the recent high level review of the volatile situation undertaken and action plan worked out both short-term and long-term to deal with the problem effectively; and

(d) the present status of the proposals initiated by Government in this regard and details of assistance provided to the States and the proposals pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) There has been an increase in the violence perpetrated by the various naxalite groups in Andhra Pradesh in the last few years. In Bihar, though the number of violent incidents by naxalite groups decreased appreciably in 1996, the intensity of violence continued to register a rising trend over the last three years. Maharashtra and Orissa have been witnessing a fluctuating trend of naxalite violence during the last three years. The rise in naxalite violence is primarily attributable to the persiting confrontationist activities of Andhra Pradesh based Peoples' War Group. The recent years witnessed an increase in targetted attacks by left extremists like attacks on security forces, police informers, Government properties etc.

The insurgency/militancy in North East also witnessed marginal increase during the year 1996 as compared to the previous two years. In Punjab, since the installation of elected Government in 1992, the State has witnessed a steady decline in terrrorist actions. Progressive improvement in the situation in Jammu

and Kashmir, enabled the holding of elections to the State Assembly and installation of an elected Government. Following this, there has been a further improvement in the situation in the State.

(c) and (d) In the recent high level review of naxalite problem in the country, the CentralGovernment, in consultation with the concerned States, has drawn up an Action Plan to deal with the problem, which includes:

(a) ensuring security of police stations, particularly those located in Naxalite affected areas;

(b) to have common communication system;

(c) Joint partolling;

(d) Set up a Control Room in each States;

(e) launching of Area Domination Programme among the States;

(f) Ministry of Home Affairs have also arranged for training of police personnel in anti-naxalite operations and

(g) strengthening of intelligence network in affected areas in concerned States.

Concerned State Governments have been requested to take immediate action to implement the above Action Plan. The action taken by the State Governments is being reviewed at high levels time to time. apart from above, the following allocations have been made to the affected States under Modernisation of Police Force Scheme during 1996-97 (as on 11.2.1997):

	(Rs. in lakhs)
Andhar Pradesh	Rs. 709.560
Bihar	Rs. 233.120
Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 237.820
Maharasthra	Rs. 125.645
Orissa	Rs. 200.000

In addition, an amount of Rs. 5 crores, as grant-in-aid, has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97 for anti-naxalite operations.

High Level Committee set up to review the Recomendations of the Sarkaria Committee

506. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Common Minimum Programme of Government contains a promise to appoint a High Level Committee to review and update the recommendations of the Sarkaria Committee;

(b) if so, whether Government have set up the Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (d) The common Minimum Programme contains a reference to the constitution of a High Level Committee to review and up date the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. This matter was considered by the Inter-State Council in its second meeting held on 15.10.1996. The Inter-State Council adopted the recommendation that there should be a Standing Committee of the Council for continuous consultations and processing of matters for the consideration of the Council. The Standing Committee has since been constituted *vide* Ministry of Home Affairs Notification No. 7/496-ISC dated 5.12.1996 as given below.

No. 7/496-ISC
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
Inter-State Council Secretariat
New Delhi, the 5th December, 1996